WAX FAX

BY BARRY LAZELL

Pic: Ross Halfin

A RARE picture of Ritchie Blackmore NOT dressed entirely in black — see 'Club Feat', below

SPOT THE VOICE

I'LL START with the most-asked question of the month; in fact, the most-consistently asked queston I can ever remember in the Wax Fax postbag over such a short period of time: namely, who sings the Limara toiletries TV ad and is it available on record?

I'd have done this one last week had I not been on holiday, but in the meantime the info has now already appeared in the September issue of our companion heavy metal monthly Kerrang! which is hitting the streets at about the same time as this issue of Sounds. On the basis that anyone interested in HM should want to buy Kerrang! anyway, I suppose I could out of loyalty say get one and see.

However, loyalty also to those several dozen people who wrote to Sounds on the subject is enough to overturn that idea, so for all of them — including Darren Roberto of Altrincham, Richard Butler of Sheffield, Tim Hancock of Doncaster and Cas of Northampton 'on behalf of at least 20 headbangers' — whose letters happen to be on top of the pile (it would need the whole column to list everyone, unfortunately), here's the answer.

I can reveal that the vocalist on the Limara ad is NOT **Robert Plant**, as several folk suggested, nor is it **Elkie Brooks** or **Maggie Bell**, to name but two other nominees — though at least these two are the right sex. No, the lady with the lungpower is a session gal named **Dee Dee Lang** and despite all the suggestions she is not accompanied by any recognised HM band, but again by session men. The men who wrote, arranged and generally masterminded the music is **Jeff Wayne**, David Essex's former producer, and the man who has been making mucho dinero over the last three years from his 'War Of The Worlds' album — which also featured an array of rock talent in session and guest roles.

As to the question with which ALL the letters end — is it available on record? — the answer is, not yet. However, the popularity of music on the ad has already become so apparent that plans, as they say, are in hand. Jeff Wayne's last notable TV effort, which was the theme to last season's BBC-TV Sunday soccer programme, appeared on a single through CBS, so watch out for their ads!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

EVERY NOW and then, as you know, I chuck one in to which I can't find the answer in the certain knowledge that somebody out there will know and enlighten the rest of us (and because I want to find out too!) On past occasons, we've even had former members of forgotten or neglected acts of the past writing in with info straight from the horse's mouth. So, see what you can do with this one.

R. Stilwell of Chelmsford, Essex, says: "I've got hold of an album by **Tramline**, titled 'Moves Of Vegetable Centuries', released in 1969 on the Island label (ILPS 9095). Can you tell me who or what Tramline were?"

In a word, no, although I certainly remember the album title, very typical of its time despite sounding particularly daft up here in 1981. The problem with Tramline is that they just don't seem to have been documented anywhere; not in my files, at least. Even the generally accurate and authoritative book Encyclopaedia Of British Beat Groups And Solo Atists Of The Sixties by Colin Cross, Paul Kendall and Mick Farren has only a miniscule entry to the effect that they were a late-60s outfit whose sole album for Island (the abovementioned 'Moves Of. . .') was high-lighted by the **Steve Winwood/Jim Capaldi** song 'Pearly Queen' — which seems to intimate without actually saying so that there might have been some Traffic involvement with Tramline, since both bands were on the same label.

All I can add to this is the info that according to a Gramophone Popular Record Catalogue for 1970 which I have here before me, the band made another album before 'Moves Of Vegetable Centuries', namely 'Somewhere Down The Line' (Island ILPS 9088).

CLUB FEAT

THE FIRST Wax Fax fan club contact for a while comes from **Rainbow's** official UK fan club, who have sent in the latest issue of their club fanzine for perusal. The mag is a 32-page A4-sized glossy professional production packed with well-reproduced (and mostly exclusive) photographs.

There are also personal messages from all the band, an account of Rainbow at work in the studio, and a very lengthy interview with **Ritchie Blackmore** amongst the other goodies. You can obtain the magazine if you aren't a member of the club, but the catch is that it will cost you twice as much — £1 as opposed to 50p for members. If you're keen on the band at all, I should imagine your course is obvious!

Whatever, if you want to send for a magazine or simply enquire about club membership, you should contact club secretary Hazel at Rainbow Official Fan Club UK, P.O. Box 7, Prescot, Merseyside, L35 4PP.

GET STONED

SOME MORE 'Publication Fax'. An interesting fanzine which is brand new to me but now up to its fifth issue, is Stoned Free.

Editor Brad tells me that it has been in existence for some nine months now, starting off as an entirely heavy rock rock magazine, but then broadening its scope wider into rock as the issues have progressed. The current one fetures **Mott The Hoople, Girlschool, Peter Green, Bob Marley, Chicken Shack** and true to its East Anglian origins (it's produced in Ipswich), several of that area's bands in **Bandaxis, Wooden Forge, The Legionnaires, Emergency Exit** and **Trespass**, with whom there is an interview.

Although a varied and well put-together issue. Brad is almost apologetic about the amount of local rock in the mag, but I would say that it is in coverage of the developing scene in their own area that fanzines such as this really come into their own, offering info which just can't be found in national magazines — so more power to their elbow.

Stoned Free is available from Brad at 6 Quantock Close, Rushmere St. Andrew, Nr. Ipswich, Suffolk. The cost is 25p plus 15p for postage if you don't want to go knocking on his door and the previous two issues are also still available at the same price, covering **Motorhead, Blue Cheer, Thin Lizzy, Witchfynde** etc.